

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy comprising:

a) a removable flat bed with an attached rear end wall ~~supported from a panel and a subframe which allows the flat bed to be attached to the chassis of a mortar buggy from which a mortar hopper has been removed~~, said flat bed having a plurality of vertical and horizontal stakeholders along side edges thereof which can receive tubular stake members;

b) left and right side panels each having at least two tubular stake members attached to said panels which extend beyond one edge of each said panels for selective insertion into said vertical stakeholders to form a hopper or into said horizontal stakeholders to form an extended flat bed;

c) a front tailgate attachable to a front edge of said side panels and ~~subframe of the flat bed when said stake members on~~ said side panels are set into the vertical stakeholders; and

d) a pair of left and right swing-out arms hingedly ~~supported from said~~ attached to the ~~subframe of the flat bed to~~ support said left and right side panels when said tubular stake

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members are inserted into said horizontal stakeholders to form said extended flat bed.

2. (Currently Amended) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 1 wherein said front tailgate is pivottally supported attached such that it can be hinged to swing away from the side panels at its top or bottom.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Original) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 1 wherein said left and right panels have a securing hole and said swing-out arms have a securing hole to secure each swing-out arm in position underneath its respective panel.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) The stake bed assembly of claim 1 wherein the side panels, rear end back wall and front tailgate, fit snugly together to form a solid wall hopper capable of carrying loose or granular materials.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) A stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy comprising:

a) a removable flat bed with an attached rear panel and a subframe which allows the flat bed to be attached to a mortar buggy or similar vehicle, said flat bed having a plurality of horizontal and vertical stakeholders located on the subframe which can receive ~~tubular members~~ or stakes;

b) left and right side panels having longitudinal and transverse ~~sides~~ side edges, at least two ~~tubular supports~~ or stakes attached to said side panels which are oriented perpendicular to one longitudinal ~~sides~~ side edge of the panels and extend away from the panels on said one side edge, and a securing component, said front and side panels fitting snugly together so that the system assembly is capable of carrying loose or granular loads;

c) a front panel attachable to the side panels and subframe of the flat bed when both side panels are set into the vertical stakeholders of the subframe in a vertical orientation such that the front panel can be hinged to swing away from the side panels and subframe either from the top or the bottom;

d) a said front panel being attachable ~~which can be~~ attached to the subframe of the flat bed when both side panels are set in a horizontal orientation to form extensions on said flat bed, said front panel can be attached to the subframe of the flat bed when the side panels are removed;

e) said front panel being made of solid steel or other alloy and having stakes that are welded to it to provide strength and rigidity, and wherein said front panel is attached to the side panels and the subframe of the flat bed at all four corners through the use of a hinge pin system; and

f) a pair of swing-out arms hingedly attached on left and rights sides of the subframe of the flat bed, said swing-out arms securable against the subframe in a parallel orientation to the subframe and positionable at a right angles to the subframe, with a securing component to engage with the respective securing component of each side panel.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) A mortar buggy with a stake bed conversion assembly which comprises

 a wheeled chassis;

 an engine and controls for driving and steering said chassis;

 a ~~plastic~~ hopper rigidly affixed to a base plate which is pivotally mounted to a forward end of said chassis;

 a power driven cylinder to raise and lower a rear portion of said ~~plastic~~ hopper and base plate between a transport position and a dumping position;

 a removable stake bed assembly for pivoted attachment to said chassis and power cylinder and replacement of said ~~plastic~~ hopper and base plate, said stake bed assembly having a flat bed, a rear panel and removable side walls, said side walls each having at least two ~~tubular~~ stakes which extend beyond one edge of each said side walls to form ~~tubular~~ stake projections; and

 said ~~tubular~~ stake projections selectively inserted into vertical stakeholders in said flat bed to form a hopper or into horizontal stakeholders on said flat bed to form an extended flat bed.

15. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) The mortar buggy of claim ~~15~~ 14, further comprising a front tailgate which is attachable to a front edge of said flat bed and to front edges of

said side panels when said side panels are set into the vertical stakeholders.

16. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) The mortar buggy of claim 15, further comprising swing-out arms hingedly attached to said flat bed which cooperate with said removable side walls to support said side walls when the ~~tubular~~ stake projections of said side walls are inserted into said horizontal stakeholders.

17. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) The mortar buggy of claim ~~16~~ 15 wherein said front tailgate is hinged to swing away from said side walls from either its top or bottom.

18. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) The mortar buggy of claim ~~17~~ 16 wherein said side walls have a securing component and said swing-out arms have a cooperating securing component to secure each swing-out arm in position underneath its respective side wall.

19. (Withdrawn) The mortar buggy of claim 15, further comprising projections on a back edge of said removable side walls which cooperate with generally vertical slots in said rear panel to secure said side walls to said rear panel when said stake projections are received in said vertical stakeholders.

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20. (Withdrawn) The mortar buggy of claim 15, wherein said tailgate when folded down generally planar to said flat bed expands said extended flat bed when said side panel tubular stake projections are inserted in said horizontal stakeholders.

21. (Previously Presented) A load bed conversion assembly which comprises

a wheeled chassis;
an engine and controls for driving and steering said chassis;

a load bed assembly for attachment to said chassis, said load bed assembly including a flat load bed of generally rectangular configuration and extending forwardly in relation to said chassis, a rear panel having a width generally equal to a width of said flat load bed and extending rigidly upwardly from a rear edge of said flat load bed to enable load items placed on the flat load bed to extend beyond the side edges of said flat load bed during transport.

22. (Previously Presented) A load bed assembly as claimed in claim 21, further comprising left and right vertical side panels detachably connected to the side edges of said flat load bed and to the side edges of said rear panel.

23. (Previously Presented) The load bed assembly as claimed in claim 22 wherein said flat load bed includes a plurality of spaced horizontal and vertical stakeholders along each side edge thereof, each left and right side panel having stake members attached to said panels which extend beyond a longitudinal edge of said panel for selective insertion into said vertical stakeholders to form a hopper and into said horizontal stakeholders to extend outwardly from the side edges of the flat load bed to form a horizontally extended flat bed.

24. (New) An assembly for selectively converting a wheeled chassis having an engine and controls for driving and steering said chassis between a mortar buggy configuration and a stake bed load carrier configuration, said assembly when in mortar buggy configuration including a pivotal hopper mounted on said chassis and a power cylinder connected between said chassis and hopper to pivot the hopper between a generally horizontal mortar retaining position and an inclined mortar dumping position, said hopper being removably supported by said chassis and said power cylinder to enable removal of said hopper and assembly of a stake bed load carrier on said chassis and power cylinder, said stake bed load carrier including a longitudinally extending load bed pivotally supported from said chassis and power cylinder, said load bed including an upwardly extending end wall rigid with a rearward

end of said load bed, a pair of side walls rigidly and detachably connected to said load bed and said rear end wall and a gate supported at a forward end of said load bed and side walls, said side walls being selectively supported in vertical relation to said load bed and in horizontal laterally extending relation thereto to provide laterally extended horizontal support surfaces on said load bed.

25. (New) The assembly as claimed in claim 24, wherein said gate extends between the forward ends of said side walls and is selectively pivotable about a pivot axis at either a top or bottom forward edge of said side walls.

26. (New) The assembly as claimed in claim 24, wherein side edges of said load bed and bottom edges of said side walls include connecting structure to support said side walls selectively in vertical and horizontal laterally extending positions in relation to said load bed.

27. (New) The assembly as claimed in claim 26, wherein said load bed includes pivotally supported support arms pivotable outwardly into underlying supporting engagement with said side walls when in horizontally aligned, laterally extending relation to said load bed thereby to support said side walls.

28. (New) The assembly as claimed in claim 26, wherein said side walls in said horizontal position increase the effective width of a supporting surface formed by said load bed.